UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/498,396	02/04/2000	Saeed Anooshfar	3994(CFP1317US)	8772

5514 7590 04/06/2005

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER	
BAUGH, APRIL L	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2141	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/498,396	ANOOSHFAR, SAEED	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	April L Baugh	2141	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/22/05 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Claims 1, 7, 21, 23-25 are amended, therefore claims 1-25 are now pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,911,044 to Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and further in view of Maniwa et al.

Regarding claim 1, Lo et al. teaches a computer network scanning system for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network (column 1, lines 14-16), said system comprising: at least one computer terminal adapted to receive input for creating the scan order and sending the scan order to an order entry server; at least one order entry server computer configured to receive the scan order from the computer terminal and to create and distribute scan orders to at least once scanner node, each order entry server computer being coupled to said at least one computer terminal through the computer network; and at least one scanner node, each scanner node being coupled to said at least one computer terminal and each order entry server computer through the computer network, each scanner node being configured to receive and process scan orders sent to the scanner node by at least one of the order entry servers, and each scanner node being configured to generate a scanned image based on the received scan order and to send the scanned image to the network address included in the received scan order(column 2, lines 22-25 and column 24, lines 65-67).

Lo et al. does not teach at least one computer terminal adapted to receive input including any address for sending scanned image, the address being input by a requestor. Cunningham teaches at least one computer terminal adapted to receive input, the scan order including at least one network address to which a scanned image is to be sent, the address being input by a requestor (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20

and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61 of Cunningham). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having at least one computer terminal adapted to receive input including any address for sending scanned image, the address being input by a requestor because the system has the ability to send the scanned image to a third party.

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham does not teach each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received. Maniwa et al. teaches each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received from at least one of the order entry servers (column 3, lines 40-67, column 28, lines 1-28, column 31, lines 21-53 where a scan profile is equivalent to a scan order). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham by each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received because this allows orders to be processed in a variety of manners to include based on size, priority, sender of the order and can thus help to create more efficient processing of the orders.

Regarding claim 4, Lo et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 1 wherein each order entry server computer comprises: a user interface module coupled to the computer network and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters for the scan order from the terminal(s) (column 26, lines 28-29); a scanner directory service module coupled to the user interface module and configured to provide a capability profile for each scanner node on the computer network (column 14, lines 40-45); a scan order reconciler module coupled to the scanner directory service module and to the user interface module and adapted to receive scanner

settings and parameters for the scan order inputted through the user interface module, the scan order reconciler module configured to compare a capability profile for a scanner node with the inputted scanner settings and parameters for consistency and to provide notification through the user interface module of any inconsistencies (column 12, lines 12-18, 25-27, and 32-35); a script writer module coupled to and adapted to receive input from the scan order reconciler module and configured to create the scan order by translating scanner settings and parameters inputted from the terminal through the user interface module into a script that can be parsed by the scanner nodes (column 13, lines 55-56).

Lo et al. does not teach an email server module. Cunningham teaches an email server module adapted to receive the scan order from the script writer module and configured to send electronic mail messages to any address designated in the scan order and to send the scan order to any scanner node on the computer network (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having an email server module because a module is needed to transmit orders and messages between the terminal, server computer, and scanner.

Regarding claim 7, Lo et al. teaches a computer network scanning method (column 23, lines 38-40) for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node (column 1, lines 14-16), said method comprising: creating the scan order at a local computer terminal, wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned (column 3, lines 26-28 and column 15, line 21) and an address of at least one of the individuals (column 9,

line 2); submitting the scan order to at least one scanner node for processing; processing the scan order at the scanner node; and updating the scanner node(s) on the computer network (column 1, lines14-16).

Lo et al. does not teach the selection of the individuals address from a group. Cunningham teaches selection from the group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document (pg.2, section 0026), and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having the selection of the individuals address be from a group of recipients of the scanned document and recipients of notification of completion because different individuals may be interested in different parts of the scanning process.

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham does not teach displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order. Maniwa et al. teaches displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order (column 3, lines 40-67, column 28, lines 1-28, column 31, lines 21-53 where a scan profile is equivalent to a scan order). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham by displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order because this allows the user to double check whether the correct

order has been chosen for processing, and also notifies the user of which order is being currently processed by the scanner.

Referring to claim 11, Lo et al. teaches the method of claim 7 (column 23, lines 38-40 of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. does not teach the use of electronic mail. Cunningham teaches wherein the step of submitting uses electronic mail (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by using electronic mail because this is an efficient way of communication.

Referring to claim 19, Lo et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 18 (column 23, lines 38-40 of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. does not teach the use of electronic mail. Cunningham teaches an email server module coupled to the computer network and to the central database and configured to send electronic mail messages to any address designated in the scan order (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by using electronic mail because this is an efficient way of communication.

Regarding claim 21, Lo et al. teaches a computer network scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node (column 1, lines 14-16 and column 23, lines 38-40), said method comprising: creating the scan order at a local computer

terminal, wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned (column 3, lines 26-28 and column 15, line 21) and an address of at least one individual (column 9, line 2); storing the scan order in a central database(column 15, lines 27-30); retrieving the scan order for a scanner node; processing the retrieved scan order at the scanner node designated in the scan order; and updating the central database (column 16, lines 10-11).

Lo et al. does not teach the selection of the individuals address from a group. Cunningham teaches selection from the group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document (pg.2, section 0026), and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having the selection of the individuals address be from a group of recipients of the scanned document and recipients of notification of completion because different individuals may be interested in different parts of the scanning process.

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham does not teach displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order. Maniwa et al. teaches displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order (column 3, lines 40-67, column 28, lines 1-28, column 31, lines 21-53 where a scan profile is equivalent to a scan order). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham by displaying the identification of the item

to be scanned in the scan order because this allows the user to double check whether the correct order has been chosen for processing, and also notifies the user of which order is being currently processed by the scanner.

Regarding claim 23, Lo et al. teaches an electronically-readable medium storing a computer program (see column 23, lines 16-19) for permitting a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of creating a scan order; submitting the scan order for processing to scanner nodes on a computer network; processing the scan order at the scanner nodes (column 1, lines 14-16 and column 2, lines 23-25); and updating the scanner node(s) on the computer network (column 17, lines 12-15).

Lo et al. does not teach creating a scan order including any address for sending scanned image set by a requestor's input performed through a computer network. Cunningham teaches creating a scan order including any address for sending scanned image set by a requestor's input performed through a computer network order (column 3, lines 29-34, column 4, lines 26-30), wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an address of at least one individual selected from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than the requestor that initiates the scan order; and sending the scanned image obtained by processing the scan order to the address included in the scan order (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having at least one computer terminal adapted to

receive input including any address for sending scanned image, the address being input by a requestor because the system has the ability to send the scanned image to a third party.

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham does not teach displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order. Maniwa et al. teaches displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order (column 3, lines 40-67, column 28, lines 1-28, column 31, lines 21-53 where a scan profile is equivalent to a scan order). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham by displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order because this allows the user to double check whether the correct order has been chosen for processing, and also notifies the user of which order is being currently processed by the scanner.

Referring claim 24, Lo et al. teaches an electronically-readable medium storing a computer program (see column 23, lines 16-19) for permitting a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of creating a scan order; storing the scan order in a central database (column 15, lines 27-30); retrieving the scan order from the central database for processing at the scanner nodes designated in the scan order (column 1, lines 14-16 and column 2, lines 23-25); and updating the central database upon completion of the scan order(column 17, lines 12-15).

Lo et al. does not teach creating a scan order including any address for sending scanned image set by a requestor's input performed through a computer network. Cunningham teaches creating a scan order including any address for sending scanned image set by a requestor's input performed through a computer network (column 3, lines 29-34, column 4, lines 26-30 of Cunningham), wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an

address of at least one individual selected from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than the requestor that initiates the scan order (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having at least one computer terminal adapted to receive input including any address for sending scanned image, the address being input by a requestor because the system has the ability to send the scanned image to a third party.

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham does not teach displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order. Maniwa et al. teaches displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order (column 3, lines 40-67, column 28, lines 1-28, column 31, lines 21-53 where a scan profile is equivalent to a scan order). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham by displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order because this allows the user to double check whether the correct order has been chosen for processing, and also notifies the user of which order is being currently processed by the scanner.

Regarding claim 25, Lo et al. teaches a computer network scanning method (column 23, lines 38-30 of Lo et al.) for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node which has a scanner and a computer terminal connected to each scanner node through the computer network (column 2, lines 22-25 of Lo et al.), said method comprising the

steps of: receiving the scan order, through the computer network; instructing the scanner to perform a scanning operation based on the scan order (column 1, lines 14-16 and column 23, lines 38-40 of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. does not teach creating a scan order including any address for sending scanned image set by a requestor's input performed on the computer terminal. Cunningham teaches including at least one address for sending a scanned image set by a requestor's input performed on the computer terminal (column 3, lines 29-34, column 4, lines 26-30 of Cunningham), wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an address of at least one individual selected from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than the requestor that initiates the scan order; and sending the scanned image to the address included in the scan order through the computer network (abstract, column 3, lines 1-8, column 6, lines 9-13 and 25-34, column 7, lines 14-20 and 29-40, column 9, lines 58-61). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. by having at least one computer terminal adapted to receive input including any address for sending scanned image, the address being input by a requestor because the system has the ability to send the scanned image to a third party.

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham does not teach displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order. Maniwa et al. teaches displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order (column 3, lines 40-67, column 28, lines 1-28, column 31, lines 21-53 where a scan profile is equivalent to a scan order). Therefore it would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham by displaying the identification of the item to be scanned in the scan order because this allows the user to double check whether the correct order has been chosen for processing, and also notifies the user of which order is being currently processed by the scanner.

Referring to claim 2, Lo et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 1 further comprising a central database coupled via the computer network to each scanner node and to each terminal, the central database adapted to store and retrieve scan orders (column 15, lines 27-30 of Lo et al.).

Regarding claim 5, Lo et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 4 wherein the scanner directory service module is a module selected from the group comprising (A) a database containing a capability profile for each scanner node on the computer network, the database populated by entering a capability profile for each scanner node before using the database (column 14, lines 54-55 and column 15, lines 27-30 of Lo et al.), and (B) a directory of capability profiles for the scanner nodes on the computer network generated on demand by a lookup/discovery software module (column 14, lines 40-45 of Lo et al.).

Referring to claim 8, Lo et al. teaches the computer network scanning method of claim 7 wherein the step of creating the scan order comprises the substeps of accessing from an order entry server computer a user interface module which permits input of the scan order from the terminal (column 26, lines 28-29 of Lo et al.); inputting from the terminal a desired set of scanner settings and parameters through the user interface module; reconciling the inputted scanner settings and parameters with a capability profile associated with each scanner node

designated in the scan order; and converting the reconciled scanner settings and parameters into the scan order (column 12, lines 12-18, 25-27, and 32-35 of Lo et al.) using a script writer module associated with the order entry server computer (column 13, lines 55-56 of Lo et al.).

Regarding claim 10, Lo et al. teaches the method of claim 8 wherein the step of reconciling comprises the substeps of: (a) retrieving from a scanner directory service module the capability profile for each of the scanner nodes in the designated scan order; (column 10, line 39 of Lo et al.) (b) comparing the retrieved capability profiles of the scanner nodes with the scan order; and (c) when the scan order is inconsistent with a retrieved capability profile of a scanner node: (I) providing notification of the inconsistency through the user interface (column 12, lines 12-18, 26-28, and 32-35 of Lo et al.); and (II) executing one step selected from the group comprising (A) the selection of an alternative scanner node and repeating steps (a) through (c) above, and (B) the acceptance of the scanner node with the associated capability profile (column 12, lines 63-65 and column 13, lines 20-21 of Lo et al.).

Regarding claim 18, Lo et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 1 wherein each order entry server computer comprises: a user interface module coupled to the computer network and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters for the scan order from the terminal(s) (column 26, lines 28-29 of Lo et al.); a scanner directory service module coupled to the user interface module and configured to provide a capability profile for each scanner node on the computer network (column 14, lines 40-45 of Lo et al.); a scan order reconciler module coupled to the scanner directory service module and the user interface module and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters for the scan order inputted through the user interface module, the scan order reconciler module configured to compare a capability profile for a

scanner node with the inputted scanner settings and parameters for consistency and to provide notification through the user interface module of any inconsistencies (column 12, lines 12-18, 25-27, and 32-35 of Lo et al.); a script writer module coupled to and adapted to receive input from the scan order reconciler module and configured to create the scan order by translating scanner settings and parameters inputted from the terminal through the user interface module into a script that can be parsed by the scanner nodes (column 13, lines 55-56 of Lo et al.); and a central database coupled to the script writer module and to the computer network, the central database accessible over the computer network by all scanner nodes and terminals on the computer network, the central database adapted to store and retrieve scan orders generated by the script writer module (column 15, lines 27-30 of Lo et al.).

Referring to claim 22, Lo et al. teaches the method of claim 21 wherein the step of updating the central database comprises deleting the scan order from the central database (column 17, lines 12-15 of Lo et al.).

3. Claim 3 and 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,911,044 to Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. as applied to claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 21-25 above, and further in view of Kumpf et al.

Regarding claim 3, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 1 (column 23, lines 38-40 of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach each terminal has associated therewith browser software for inputting scan orders. Kumpf et al. teaches each terminal has associated therewith browser software for inputting scan orders (column 2, lines 30-32 of Kumpf et al.). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time that the invention was made to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by having each terminal has associated therewith browser software for inputting scan orders because the software is needed to instruct the hardware on how to process the scan orders.

Regarding claim 9, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. teaches the method of claim 8 (column 23, lines 38-40 of Lo et al.)

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach accessing comprises using Web browser software to retrieve a Web page, the Web page adapted to receive input concerning scanner settings and parameters. Kumpf teaches wherein the step of accessing comprises using Web browser software to retrieve a Web page, the Web page adapted to receive input concerning scanner settings and parameters (column 2, lines 30-32 and 41). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by accessing comprises using Web browser software to retrieve a Web page, the Web page adapted to receive input concerning scanner settings and parameters because a web page is an efficient manner of communication.

4. Claim 6, 15, 16, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,911,044 to Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 21-25 above, and further in view of Cukor et al.

Regarding claim 6, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 1 wherein each scanner node comprises: a user interface module (column 26, lines 28-29 of Lo et al.); a script interpreter module for parsing the

scan order in order to obtain scanner settings and parameters contained therein, the script interpreter module coupled to the user interface module (column 13, lines 55-56 of Lo et al.); a scanner driver module adapted to receive an output of the script interpreter module and to set settings and parameters of the scanner node based on the output; a scanner module coupled to the scanner driver module and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters from the scanner driver module and configured to produce a scanned image(column 12, lines 12-18 and 25-27of Lo et al.); and an email server module coupled to the computer network, to the script interpreter module, and to the scanner module, the email server module configured to receive the scan order sent over the computer network, to send an electronic mail message containing the scanned image to any recipients indicated in the scan order, and to send an electronic mail message without the scanned image to any parties indicated in the scan order notifying such parties of the completion of the scan order (pg.1, sections 0001 ad 0002 and pg.2, sections 0026 and 0028 of Cunningham).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach of a scan order queue updater and sorter module. Cukor et al. teaches of a scan order queue updater and sorter module coupled to the user interface module and to the script interpreter module, the scan order queue updater and sorter module configured to update and sort a queue of a scanner node (column 11, lines 53-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by having a scan order queue updater and sorter module because this keeps the scan orders organized for processing by the scanner node.

Referring to claim 15, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the step of processing comprises the substeps of: selecting one of the scan orders; obtaining an item to be scanned as specified in the scan order (column 3, lines 25-27 and column 16, lines 10-12 of Lo et al.); setting the scanner node to desired settings and parameters as specified in the scan order (column 12, lines 50-51 of Lo et al.); placing the item to be scanned in the scanner node; initiating scanning; sending a scanned image as specified in the scan order using an email server module associated with the scanner node (pg. 1, section 0001 and pg.2, section 0026 of Cunningham); and sending notification using the email server module associated with the scanner node of completion of the scan order to any parties indicated in the scan order (pg.2, section 0028 of Cunningham).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach of a queue of scan orders. Cukor et al. teaches of selecting one of the scan orders in the queue of the scanner node (column 11, lines 53-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by having a scan order queue because this keeps the scan orders organized for processing by the scanner node.

Regarding claim 17, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the step of updating the scanner node(s) on the computer network comprises the substeps of requesting count reduction of the scan order when count is greater than one, and requesting removal of the scan order from the scanner node when count equals one (column 22, lines 21-25 of Lo et al.); determining whether the scan order has been sent to any other scanner node(s) in the computer network; and when the scan order has been sent to other

scanner node(s) on the computer network, sending an electronic mail message using the email server module from the scanner node which processed the scan order to each other scanner node (pg.1, section 0001 and pg.2, section 0025), requesting (A) count reduction of the scan order when count is greater than one, and (B) removal of the scan order from each other scanner node when count equals one (column 22, lines 21-25 of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach of a queue of scan orders. Cukor et al. teaches of the removal of the scan order from the queue of the scanner node (column 11, lines 53-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by having a scan order queue because this keeps the scan orders organized for processing by the scanner node.

Referring to claim 20, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. teaches the computer network scanning system of claim 1 wherein each scanner node comprises: a user interface module (column 26, lines 28-29 of Lo et al.); a script interpreter module for parsing the scan order in order to obtain scanner settings and parameters contained therein (column 13, lines 55-56 of Lo et al.); a scanner driver module coupled to the script interpreter module, the scanner driver module adapted to receive an output of the script interpreter module and to set settings and parameters of the scanner node based on the output (column 13, lines 47-48 of Lo et al.); a scanner module coupled to the scanner driver module and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters from the scanner driver module and configured to produce a scanned image (column 13, lines 21-23 of Lo et al.); and an email server module coupled to the computer network and to the scanner module, the email server module configured to receive the scanned image from the

scanner module, to send an electronic mail message containing the scanned image to any recipients indicated in the scan order, and to send an electronic mail message without the scanned image to any parties indicated in the scan order notifying such parties of the completion of the scan order (pg.1, section 0001 and pg. 2, section 0026 and 0028 of Cunningham).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach of a scan order retrieval, queue updater and sorter module. Cukor et al. teaches of the a scan order retrieval, queue updater and sorter module coupled to the computer network, to the user interface module, and to the script interpreter module, the scan order retrieval, queue updater and sorter module configured to retrieve scan orders from a central database and to update and sort retrieved scan orders in a queue in a scanner node (column 11, lines 53-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by having a scan order queue because this keeps the scan orders organized for processing by the scanner node.

Regarding claim 16, Lo et al. teaches the method of claim 15 wherein the step of setting the scanner node comprises the substeps of parsing the scan order using the script interpreter module associated with the scanner node; and sending commands to a scanner driver module associated with the scanner node based upon information obtained from the parsed scan order (column 13, lines 47-51 and 55-56 of Lo et al.).

5. Claim 12, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,911,044 to Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. as

applied to claim 6, 15, 16, 17, and 20 above, and further in view of Kumpf et al. US Patent No. 6,223,223.

Regarding claim 12, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the step of processing comprises the substeps of invoking a scanning mode at the scanner node where the scan order is received (column 1, line 22 of Lo et al.); parsing the scan order using a script interpreter module associated with the scanner node (column 13, lines 55-56 of Lo et al.); updating a queue of scan orders (column 11, lines 53-54 of Cukor et al.) at the scanner node using a process which eliminates from the queue all scan orders that are count-expired (column 22, lines 21-25 and Fig. 14B and 14C of Lo et al.); prioritizing all scan orders in the updated queue according to a predetermined algorithm; and listing the prioritized scan orders (column 11, lines 54-56 of Cukor et al.).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. does not teach of time-expiration. Kumpf et al. US Patent No. 6,223,223 teaches using a process which eliminates from the queue all scan orders that are time-expired (column 5, lines 15-16 and 57-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. by eliminating from the queue all scan orders that are time-expired because this will help to open up space for new orders when an order cannot be scanned or if a user does not close out a scan order in the system.

Referring to claim 13, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. teaches the method of claim 12 wherein the step of updating a queue of scanner orders at a scanner node (column 11, lines 53-54 of Cukor et al.) comprises the substeps of (c) when not

time-expired, determining whether the scan order has count expired;(d) when count-expired, removing the scan order from the queue; (e) when not count-expired, determining whether there is a count reduction notification associated with such scan order; and (f) when there is a count reduction notification, reduce count order associated 5 with the scan order and repeat steps (a) through (f) above (column 22, lines 21-25 and Fig. 14B and 14C of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. does not teach of time-expiration of scan orders. Kumpf et al. US Patent No. 6,223,223 teaches (a) determining whether the scan order has time-expired; (b) when time-expired, removing the scan order from the queue (column 5, lines 15-16 and 57-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. and Cukor et al. by eliminating from the queue all scan orders that are time-expired because this will help to open up space for new orders when an order cannot be scanned or if a user does not close out a scan order in the system.

Regarding claim 14, Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. the method of claim 12 (column 1, line 22 of Lo et al.).

Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. does not teach a predetermined algorithm. Cukor et al. teaches the predetermined algorithm is an algorithm selected from the group comprising (A) first-in first-out, (B) alphabetical, and (C) requestor-specified priority level (column 11, lines 54-56 of Cukor et al.). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was mad to further modify the network image scanning system of Lo et al. in view of Cunningham and Maniwa et al. by having a

predetermined algorithm because algorithm is needed to select which scan order to process when multiple orders are present.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to computer network scanning in general: Kumpf et al., Ohkubo, Os et al., Maniwa, Kamiyama et al., Oliver, Bloomfield, Sato et al., LeClair et al., Brusky et al., Chalstrom et al., and Roosen et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April L Baugh whose telephone number is 571-272-3877. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALB

RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER